

12.912 CHILD ABDUCTION/AMBER ALERT PLAN

References:

Procedure 12.400 - Offense Reporting,
Miscellaneous Reporting
Procedure 12.910 - Missing Persons

Ohio Revised Code - Section 5502.52 Statewide
Emergency Alert Program Regarding Abducted
Children

Definitions:

AMBER Alert Plan America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response is named for a 9-year-old girl who was kidnapped by a stranger and later found dead. In response to that tragedy, area media has agreed to repeat news bulletins about abducted children hoping the bulletins might help save the life of a child.

Child is an individual under eighteen years of age.

Dangerous environment is a relative term that may depend on the age and development of the child.

Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a four part message system. The header defines the nature, location and the agency that originated the emergency message. The two-tone signal, transmitted for a minimum of eight seconds, provides an audio alert to audiences that emergency information is about to be sent. The audio and/or video message is transmitted to the audience. The end of message signal is given.

Purpose:

To use all available community resources to facilitate the successful recovery of an abducted child.

To establish partnerships with television/radio media in order to immediately broadcast critical information within the tri-state area using the EAS.

To establish a partnership with the Advanced Regional Traffic Interactive Management and Information System (ARTIMIS) to disseminate descriptive information utilizing the Dynamic Message Signs (DMS).

Policy:

Department personnel will respond to all calls of child abduction promptly and safely.

Department personnel will thoroughly investigate all reports of critical missing and missing children to determine if the child has possibly been abducted.

Department personnel will work in partnership with the media and the community to locate abducted children, return them to safety, and apprehend the abductor.

Information:

In abductions, the first three hours after the child is abducted are the most critical. Broadcast radio, television, and DMS present timely and vast medium in which to alert the citizens of the entire metropolitan area.

This plan has been developed in partnership with Cincinnati based media agencies, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Procedure:

A. First On Scene Officer Responsibilities

1. Assist the on scene or responding supervisor in determining if a child abduction has occurred.
 - a. Obtain sufficient descriptive information about the child, including a recent photograph. Obtain descriptive information of the abductor, manner and direction of escape, and other pertinent data.

- b. Conduct consensual searches of any locations where the abducted child could reasonably be (i.e. residence, babysitter's house, relative's house).
 - 3. Complete necessary reports. Refer to procedure 12.910, Missing Persons.
- B. Supervisor Responsibilities
- 1. Immediately respond to all child abduction calls.
 - 2. Conduct a thorough investigation to determine if any of the below listed criteria have been satisfied:
 - a. The supervisor concludes, based on the totality of the circumstances, the probability exists that the child has been abducted.
 - b. There is credible information that suggests the child was forcibly or intentionally removed or lured away from the location and there is a threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the child.
 - c. The abducted child is a potential victim of foul play, sexual exploitation, or is in a dangerous environment.
 - d. The abducted child is believed to be with people who may endanger the child's welfare.
 - e. Thirty minutes have elapsed since the child was last seen and an investigation has taken place which eliminates all other alternative explanations for the whereabouts of the child.
 - f. The child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as a result of child custody dispute, unless the dispute poses a credible threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the child.

3. Upon the supervisor's determination that a child abduction has occurred:
 - a. Gather information for Sections II, III, and IV of the Form 304A, Child Abduction/AMBER Alert Plan Form.
 - b. Contact a Police Communications Section (PCS) supervisor to relay the information and activate the AMBER Alert Plan.
 4. If a crime scene is identified, initiate crime scene control and evidence preservation.
 5. Establish separate staging areas for responding officers and media. The staging area will not be located in the abducted child's home.
 6. Notify a Personal Crimes Unit supervisor. If not working, a Criminal Investigations Section supervisor will respond.
- C. The Police Communications Section supervisor will:
1. Collect all information necessary to complete a Form 304A and contact the media voice mailbox system.
 2. Notify ARTIMIS to activate an AMBER Alert utilizing the DMS.
 - a. ARTIMIS will activate the DMS with AMBER Alert and a description of the vehicle used and/or the license plate (this may be a partial plate).
 - 1) ARTIMIS will post the AMBER Alert message on the DMS's for a period of five (5) hours or until directed by PCS supervisor.
 3. Initiate an All County Broadcast (ACB).
 4. Initiate an info page advising activation of the AMBER Alert.
 5. Activate the Communicator to notify Area Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's)

6. Generate a teletype message to the affected areas.
- D. Personal Crimes Unit (PCU)/Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) Supervisor will:
1. Respond to the scene and assume responsibility for the investigation.
 2. Ensure PCU personnel duplicate any photographs of the abducted child for radio and television station notification.
 3. Ensure PCU personnel involved in the investigation maintain a log detailing all police actions taken to locate the abducted child.
 4. Ensure PCU personnel complete Form 304, Cincinnati Police Department Missing Report and enter the information into the Law Enforcement Automated Data System/National Crime Information Center (LEADS/NCIC) computer files.
- E. Upon confirmation of the location of an abducted child the Personal Crimes Unit (PCU)/Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) supervisor will:
1. Cancel the LEADS /NCIC teletype.
 2. Ensure a Form 311, Cincinnati Police Department Incident Closure Report is completed.
 3. Contact a PCS supervisor to:
 - a. Call the media voice mailbox system and cancel the AMBER Alert.
 - b. Advise ARTIMUS to deactivate the AMBER Alert on the DMS.
 - c. Cancel the ACB.
 - d. Initiate an info page advising deactivation of the AMBER Alert.
 - e. Activate the Communicator to notify PSAP's of the AMBER Alert cancellation.

- f. Cancel the teletype message sent to the effected area.